

Week 2: Blood in the Cup
Series: The God Who Bleeds

Primary Text: 1 Corinthians 11:17–34

Introduction

Big Idea: People expect God to be distant, untouchable. But our God steps into pain, bleeds, and redeems, and puts that redemption in a cup we can lift, taste, and carry.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

1 Corinthians 11:25¹ (NIV)

In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. **1 Corinthians 11:17 (NIV)**

When you come together, **it is not the Lord’s Supper you eat**, for when you are eating, some of you go ahead with your own private suppers. As a result, one person remains hungry and another gets drunk. **1 Corinthians 11:20–21 (NIV)**

The Corinthian Setting

My brothers and sisters, believers in Christ must not show favoritism. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes... have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith...? But you have dishonored the poor.

James 2:1–6 (NIV)

1. He Bleeds; We Belong: The Cup as Covenant

“The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a **new covenant** with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah... I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people... For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

Jeremiah 31:31–34 (NIV)

¹ All scripture in NIV unless otherwise stated.

"...without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness." **Hebrews 9:22 (NIV)**

2. He Pours; We Partake: The Cup as Cleansing

So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. **1 Corinthians 11:27-29 (NIV)**

That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment. Nevertheless, when we are judged in this way by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be finally condemned with the world. **1 Corinthians 11:30-32 (NIV)**

How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! **Hebrews 9:14 (NIV)**

Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. **Hebrews 10:22 (NIV)**

Closing Challenge

We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. **1 Corinthians 11:26 (NIV)**